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World pledges $6 billion for Syria after chemical attack

Summit takes on 'massive' needs metroNEWS

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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017

Student sleuths teach principal a major lesson metroNEWS

High 4°C/Low 2°C Lots and lots of rain

RISING WATERS Residents near Rideau River on alert for flood metroNEWS

Powerful water rushes under the bridge and into Hog's Back Falls in southern Ottawa on Wednesday. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Report blames soil for sinkhole

DAMAGES

Absolving water main critical for insurance claims

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The city has released its report on the cause of last year's Rideau Street sinkhole, blaming the incident on sandy soil conditions rather than a faulty water main.

"It is highly likely that the root cause of the sinkhole was instability of the saturated sandy soil," reads the report, compiled by engineering consultants McMillen Jacobs Associates on behalf of the city.

The report was kept confidential for three months but released Wednesday.

City Clerk Rick O'Connor said the city has received 32 insurance claims from businesses and property owners affected by the sinkhole. Those have been passed on to the city's insurance provider, along with a claim for $1.4 million in costs associated with emergency personnel.

A second $780,000 claim was filed on March 24 for "secondary costs" including consultant fees, city staff costs, legal costs and the root cause report.

The 27-page document includes detailed technical information provided by the Ottawa Light Rail Transit Constructors, including soil analysis and a timeline of events on the days leading up to the sinkhole.

It notes that the ground along Rideau Street east of Sussex Drive is made up of soft, sandy soil as opposed to bedrock.

According to the report, when the disturbed sandy soil began to flow, it led to the erosion of soil around the large city water main. The sudden change resulted in the pipe bursting, which quickly eroded even more soil and resulted in the massive sinkhole.

The most important part of the report is that it is "highly unlikely based on the available information" that the city-operated pipe burst on its own. If the pipe had been the original source of the sinkhole, flooding would have been obvious in the days leading up to the collapse, according to the report.

That information is crucial to the city's insurance claim, which includes the cost of emergency response staff.

"As of April 3, 2017, the insurer has not made a determination concerning the claim," said O'Connor in a memo to council.

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Your essential daily news

Alleged hacker's dad vows electronics ban for son if granted bail. **Canada**

COUNCIL

Westboro keeps free parking

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Wellington West and Westboro will hold onto their "golden goose" free parking — for now. But the city plans to re-evaluate their parking process.

City councillors faced pressure on Wednesday from other economic areas to implement paid parking.

Byward Market retailer Andre Schad said the inconsistency of paid parking across the city is unfair. He said the allure of free parking attracts customers to Wellington West, while the Byward Market is punished with paid parking.

"I can't understand why this is even a discussion," he said. "We realize paid parking is here to stay, but it has to be here to stay for everybody."

Schad said retailers are struggling to exist in the Byward, threatened by high rent and a reputation for expensive parking and homeless shelters.

"I think I speak on behalf of most retailers. A lot of them are going to Westboro where it's more business friendly," he said.

A recent parking study found the Westboro area should qualify for paid parking, but the current rules require the support of the local Business Improvement Association and community association to make the changes.

The majority of businesses and residents were not willing to approve the change.

Coun. Mathieu Fleury proposed implementing paid parking anyway, but city staff raised concern that it could open up a potential for a legal challenge.

In the end, Fleury withdrew his motion and instead councillors are asking city staff to review the rules that require the BIA approval.

"For a year and a half the city has been telling residents and businesses 'You get to say whether or not paid parking goes in,'" said Coun. Jeff Leiper. "I'm pleased we're going to respect that process."

"But we've also heard, very clearly from councillors and BIAs across the city that if that's the result of the process, then the process needs to change. Under the current process, paid parking is unlikely to ever go in anywhere," he said.

Province considering coverage of abortion pill

HEALTH

Ontario review ongoing as New Brunswick now offers free drug

Alexandra Abdelwahab
Metro | Ottawa

A day after New Brunswick announced it will offer the abortion pill for free, Ontario is still reviewing if it should cover the drug's cost.

David Jensen, from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, said Ontario is considering whether or not to cover Mifegymiso, a two-drug combination commonly known as the abortion pill, under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) plan.

He said the province will decide after it hears the Canadian Drug Expert Committee's (CDEC) recommendation on the issue, expected later this month.

But even if Ontario does decide to cover the cost, only those enrolled in the Home Care, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program or Trillium Drug Program would be eligible.

> **Covering medication abortions is cheaper for the province than paying for surgical abortions.**
> Sandeep Prasad

Only one clinic in Ottawa currently offers the drug, at a cost of between $425 and $450, according to Sandeep Prasad, executive director of Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights.

He called New Brunswick's announcement a smart move.

"Covering medication abortions is cheaper for the province than paying for surgical abortions," Prasad said, explaining patients who would have previously had surgery, may now opt for the pill.

But he added cost is not the only barrier.

Doctors and pharmacists must complete training and register with the manufacturer to prescribe or dispense the pill.

Pharmacists also cannot give the pills directly to patients, but must send it back to the doctor to administer.

"We just heard from one (Ottawa) doctor yesterday, who had finished the training, but suddenly realized there's no pharmacy that has actually done the training and registered to dispense it," Prasad said.

He called on Health Canada to remove these added restrictions.

The abortion drug Mifepristone, also known as RU486, in an abortion clinic in Auckland, New Zealand. PHIL WALTER/GETTY IMAGES

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Executives receive bonuses despite Phoenix system backlog

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The government is highlighting some progress with the Phoenix pay system even as some parts of the system suffer, while defending performance pay that was handed out to dozens of executives.

Documents tabled this week in the House of Commons show the Public Works and Government Services Canada paid 340 executives nearly $5 million in bonuses and performance pay over the past fiscal year.

Deputy minister Marie Lemay said most of those executives likely had nothing to do with the troubled pay system.

"We have many files, we don't have just pay," she said.

Lemay conceded some of those who received bonuses were involved with Phoenix.

"There's a portion of them that would be involved in the pay system."

The government is now dealing with all pay requests related to parental leave within the standard it set for itself and wait times for others are coming down, but there are 284,000 claims awaiting processing that are outside of the government's own standards.

$5M

Despite the ongoing issues with the pay system, 340 executives received a total of $5 million in bonuses.

Also the waits for terminations, employee transfers and some other transactions went up in the last month.

Lemay said there are real improvements underway.

"I do believe we have turned the corner," she said. "There are some where we have lost ground, but it's not a lot."

Debi Daviau, president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service, said she has real concerns about performance pay generally, but in this case she can't imagine what was worthy of a bonus.

"What part of this project went smoothly and as planned?"

Daviau said this is not going to go well with the people still waiting to be paid properly.

"It makes me mad and you can bet it will make my members mad."

Daviau said her union still sees a lot of calls from concerned members and she's not convinced things are changing.

"We didn't give any credibility to those numbers and we were not in any way convinced."

Flood watch declared

PREPAREDNESS

Rideau River area at risk, Conservation Authority says

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Houses are framed by a massive puddle inside Windsor Park. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is warning residents living by the Rideau River that spring melt combined with rain could mean imminent flooding.

"We're expecting an above average flow, the last three years have been pretty low so it does vary year to year," said spokesperson Patrick Larson.

The organization said the first area affected will be the area of the river between Kars and Kemptville in the city's south end.

Access to communities along the river, including Hilly Lane, Cedar Beach, Rideau Glen are most at risk.

Heavy rain up to 55 centimetres is forecast for Thursday and Friday, which will see a peak flow on the river on Saturday. The RVCA said they are expecting to see 450 cubic metres per second around the Carleton University monitoring station, well above the historic average of 320 centimetres.

The increased volume could affect riverside communities in the downtown. Water is expected to reach Belmont Avenue, Rideau River Drive and Windsor Park in Old Ottawa South.

Precautions are also be taken in New Edinburgh area with sandbags placed at Charles Street and Stanley Avenue.

Larson said parents should warn children not to play in running water, but most precautions being put in place are to protect property.

"Going wading in moving water is a bad idea, stay away from the ditches, things like that," he said.

"Probably most critical is making sure the sub pump is working. Other than that, be sure that any things left outside aren't going to float away. Downspout should be in running order, all the little things that need to be done," he said.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

Private members bills call for judicial training

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Queen's Park is set to have two separate private member's bills requiring prospective judges take sexual assault training.

Liberal MPP Cristina Martins plans to introduce a bill Thursday morning and Conservative MPP Laurie Scott tabled a bill on Wednesday.

Both bills seek to mandate training for judges.

"It's been something that I am concerned with as a woman, wanting to make sure there is appropriate justice for victims," said Martins about her bill.

> **"It's been something that I am concerned with as a woman.**
> MPP Cristina Martins

Interim federal Conservative leader Rona Ambrose introduced a bill in the House of Commons earlier this year and is receiving all-party support for her proposal.

Ontario Attorney General Yasir Naqvi has said previously that he could not support a similar bill, because it would be an infringement on judicial independence. Premier Kathleen Wynne has also echoed those comments.

Martins said she spoke with Naqvi about her bill and plans to introduce it even though it would appear not to have her own government's support.

"I put this bill forward for my constituents. I am doing my job as the MPP for Davenport."

Naqvi's office issued a noncommittal statement about the bill.

"I want to thank MPP Martins for her interest in education and training that judges receive, particularly in the area of sexual assault. This is a very important issue and I look forward to reviewing the bill once it is tabled in the legislature."

A followup question to his office about whether his opinion had changed received no reply.

Scott said the issue is important and she's concerned it's becoming swallowed by politics.

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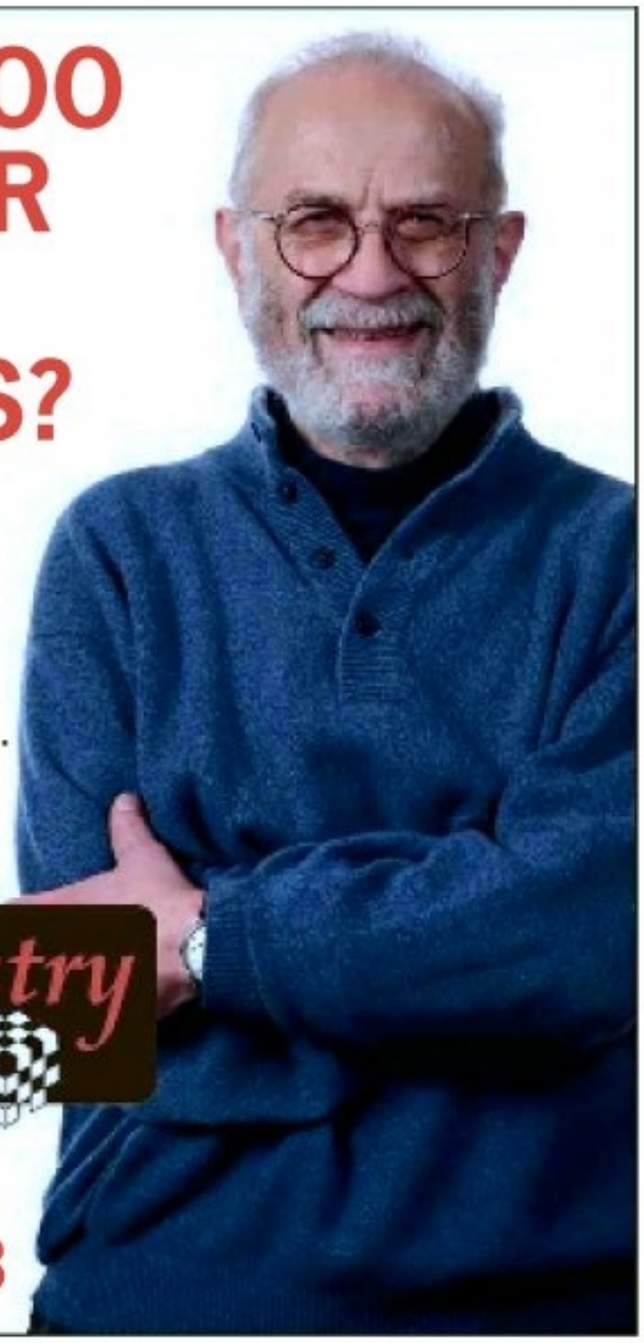

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Beyak removed from Indigenous committee

POLITICS

Comments on residential schools angered many

Conservative Sen. Lynn Beyak, who famously declared "some good" came out of Canada's residential schools, has been removed from the Senate's committee on Indigenous peoples.

A spokesperson for interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose says the senator's controversial comments do not reflect the party's position on residential schools.

Earlier this week, an Indigenous senator who sits on the committee said she would boycott its meetings as long as Beyak was still a member. Sen. Sandra Lovelace Nicholas says she was "shocked and dismayed" by her Senate colleague's remarks.

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission spent six years examining the government-funded, church-run, infamous hotbeds of abuse and mistreatment that operated from the 1870s to 1996. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BE HOME SMART

In this courtroom sketch, Karim Baratov (right) addresses the court as his lawyer Amedeo Dicarlo (bottom left), Crown Heather Graham (second from left), lawyer Deepak Paradkar (top left) and Justice Alan Whitten look on. THE CANDIAN PRESS

COURT

Accused hacker appears in bail hearing

The father of a Canadian man accused in a massive hack of Yahoo emails told an Ontario court Wednesday that he'd keep all electronic devices locked away and out of his son's reach if his child is released on bail.

Akhmet Tokbergenov was testifying in a Hamilton courtroom at his son's bail hearing, saying he and his wife are prepared to do whatever the court orders if the 22-year-old is released from custody.

Karim Baratov was arrested under the Extradition Act last month after U.S. authorities indicted him and three others — two of them allegedly officers of Russia's Federal Security Service — for computer hacking, economic espionage and other crimes.

American authorities have alleged in court documents that Baratov poses an "extremely high flight risk" in part due to his alleged ties to Russian intelligence agents and his financial resources. They've noted that Baratov did not appear to have any "legitimate employment."

Baratov's lawyer has called the allegations against his client unfounded. He's seeking to have the young man released on bail, arguing his client poses no flight risk.

Baratov's father told the court he has no doubt his son will comply with any bail conditions.

Tokbergenov said that every day since Baratov's arrest, he and his wife have discussed their plan should their son be released on bail.

"I have a very concrete plan. All electronic devices, all computers, everything will be put in a lockbox," he said. "My son will not have access neither to a TV, nor a computer, not to any electronics."

Tokbergenov said that he works from home and would be able to monitor his son. In a sworn affidavit filed with the court before the hearing, Baratov said he won't try to use electronic devices if released on bail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police turn to spy tech

POLICE

Mounties admit they use devices to collect cellular details

The RCMP used controversial spy technology to track cell phone data in 19 criminal investigations last year — the first official public acknowledgement that the force uses surreptitious devices to collect Canadians' cellular details.

In a rare briefing with reporters from the Toronto Star, CBC and the Globe and Mail Wednesday morning, RCMP Chief Superintendent Jeff Adam said his force owns 10 so-called "mobile device identifier" (MDI) devices with the ability to gather high-level data about the phone's location — but not private communications.

"We will confirm officially that the RCMP possesses and uses mobile identifier technology in order to identify and locate a suspect in a criminal investigation," he said. "This capability can be used to further criminal investigations relating to national security, serious organized crime and other serious criminal code offences that impact the safety and security of Canadians."

Adam said the devices identify a suspect's cell phone by gathering "very limited" signaling information in a given vicinity and collecting unique identification information from the phone — called International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) and International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers (IMEI).

"What the RCMP technology does not do is collect private communications," said Adam.

That includes voice and audio communications, email messages, text messages, contact lists, images, encryption keys or basic subscriber information, he said.

While MDI technology does allow for the collection of personal communications, the RCMP uses equipment that — by policy — does not capture private communications, said Adam.

But Brenda McPhail, director of privacy, technology and surveillance at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said even metadata collection is an invasion of privacy.

"Metadata includes location information. That is intimately personal. The fact that they only collect metadata doesn't let them off the hook," she said.

The same MDI technology used to target a suspect will also gather up the cellular data of many other Canadians, Adam confirmed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PARLIAMENT

PM showcases idea for procedural reform

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded personally to all questions asked by fellow MPs in the House of Commons Wednesday.

The move came as the Liberal government tries to convince the opposition of the merits of its proposed changes to the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure.

One suggestion is to set aside one day of the week for MPs to direct questions to the prime minister, such as is done in Britain — one of the promises in the Liberal campaign platform. THE CANDIAN PRESS

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KANSAS

Students hold principal to account

An incoming high school principal has resigned in Kansas after student reporters investigated and raised questions about her credentials.

The Pittsburg School Board accepted Amy Robertson's resignation on Tuesday, saying she felt the decision was "in the best interest of the district ... in light of the issues that arose."

The main concern stemmed from her receiving her master's and doctoral degrees from Corllins University, an unaccredited, online school. Robertson said she received her degrees before the university lost accreditation.

"She was going to be the head of our school, and we wanted (to) be assured that she was qualified and had the proper credentials," Trina Paul, a student editor at Pittsburg High School's newspaper, The Booster Redux.

Superintendent Destry Brown praised the student reporters, saying: "I appreciate that our kids ask questions and don't just accept something because somebody told them." He told the Pittsburg Morning Sun they "did a great job with the research they did."

Robertson, who works with an education consulting firm in Dubai, said there was "no issue" when she received the degrees from Corllins in 1994 and 2010. She declined to comment on questions posed by the students about her credentials because, she said, "their concerns are not based on facts."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. POLITICS

Bannon gets the boot

President Donald Trump has removed Steve Bannon from the National Security Council, reversing a controversial decision to give Bannon access to high-level meetings. A memo about the council's composition no longer lists the Bannon as a member of the Principals Committee, a group of officials who meet to discuss national security priorities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abdel Hameed Alyousef, 29, holds his twin babies who were killed during a suspected chemical attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death toll rises in Syria

MIDDLE EAST

Global leaders seek answers about attack in northern town

Abdel Hameed Alyousef lost his two children, his wife and other relatives in the suspected chemical attack Tuesday in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed at over 80 people, including at least 30 children and 20 women.

The 29-year-old father held his 9-month-old twins, Aya and Ahmed, each in an arm. He choked back tears, mumbling, "Say goodbye, baby, say goodbye" to their lifeless bodies.

When the airstrike took place, "I was right beside them and I carried them outside the house with their mother," Alyousef said.

He brought them to paramedics and, thinking they would be OK, went to look for the rest of his family. He found the bodies of two of his brothers, two nephews and a niece, as well as neighbours and friends. Only later was he told his children and wife had died.

The death toll from the suspected chemical attack rose to 86 on Wednesday as activists and rescue workers found more survivors hiding in shelters near the site of the assault, one of the deadliest in Syria's civil war.

The attack on Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people on Tuesday, leaving residents gasping for breath and convulsing in the streets. Haunting images of lifeless children piled in heaps reflected the magnitude of the attack.

A resolution drafted by Britain, France, and the U.S. stresses the Syrian government's obligation to provide information about its air operations, including the names of those in command of helicopter squadrons on the day of the attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. REACTION

President Donald Trump declared on Wednesday the deadly chemical attack in Syria had crossed "many, many lines" and abruptly changed his views of Syrian President Bashar Assad. But he refused to say what the U.S. might do in response.

$6B aid pledged by over 70 countries

Donors from more than 70 countries meeting at a conference on Syria in Brussels made a "collective pledge of $6 billion for this year alone," EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Christos Stylianides said.

Syria's "needs are massive. Our conference is sending a powerful message," he said.

However, the good will at the meeting was shadowed by the chemical attack Tuesday that killed dozens of people.

Responding to the grim news, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for Syria's warring factions and government backers such as Russia and Iran to bring an end to the six-year conflict that has taken the lives of almost 400,000 people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEW

Your essential daily news

Vicky Mochama Ishmael Daro

Safe Space

New episode April 7 featuring Lauren Mitchell and Rick Harp

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON LOSING PATIENCE WITH BOMBARDIER

After taking tax-payer money, laying off hundreds and rewarding top execs with pay hikes, Bombardier leaves cover-seeking political allies with little more than a fig leaf

It has long been taken for granted that no prime minister, no Quebec premier would ever let Bombardier go under on his or her watch. The aerospace giant's leading contribution to Canada's R&D sector, the thousands of jobs it provides kept it on the short list of Canadian corporations that no government would allow to fail.

Over and above any economic consideration, the fact that Bombardier was the corporate apple in the eye of most Quebecers guaranteed it was treated as a political sacred cow in both capitals.

In the wake of the uproar over its executives' compensation that is a status Bombardier may want to avoid putting to the test. It has become untouchable in the wrong sense of the word.

It is hard to overstate the magnitude of the popular backlash the company's management has unleashed by handing itself pay hikes and bonuses of a magnitude normally consistent with a corporate success story.

At this juncture, Bombardier would qualify for that title only if it were considered a feat to wrestle a multi-billion-dollar bailout from two orders of governments while eliminating thousands of jobs at home and abroad.

A poll published this weekend reported that 93 per cent of Quebecers were angry over the compensation news. That is as close to unanimity as one can get. It is also the kind of number that no politician can take lightly.

93% of Quebecers are angry with the company's compensation plans.

At this point, Bombardier has no friends in the provincial and federal capitals or at least none who is not embarrassed to be associated with the company. In response to public pressure, it has announced that it was postponing part of the pay hikes for a year. That has provided its cover-seeking political allies with little more than a fig leaf.

TOO BIG TO FAIL Bombardier, and its CEO Alain Bellemare (pictured), has become untouchable in the wrong sense of the word, writes Chantal Hébert. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In Quebec the compensation story cut the legs from under Philippe Couillard's Liberal government just as it was getting a rare post-budget boost. The premier has spent the past week fending off opposition charges that his government bailed out the company with little or no regard for safeguarding taxpayers' money from abuse.

Couillard has chosen to make fiscal rigour the mantra of his government. The opposition is having a field day arguing that it walks that talk when it is cutting social programs but not when it is issuing corporate welfare cheques.

On Parliament Hill, the controversy has given new life to the debate over whether Justin Trudeau was right to pledge $372.5 million in loans to Bombardier earlier this year.

There were plenty of signs in the months leading to the self-serving Bombardier compensation move that Quebecers were running out of patience with its financial demands. Only a company disconnected from reality or too arrogant to think it should be accountable to the taxpayers who bailed it out would have failed to take note of those signs.

Last fall Couillard's decision to sign off on a $1.3 billion bailout raised more opposition questions in the National Assembly than it elicited applause among the public.

From day one, the Coalition Avenir Québec had been arguing that the premier had failed to attach even minimal strings to the public money it handed Bombardier.

Even as the premier tried to turn the heat of public opinion on Trudeau for taking his time to match his government's contribution, the federal Liberals' standing in voting intentions in Quebec continued to climb while that of his own party declined.

When a federal package that fell significantly short of matching Quebec's commitment was belatedly delivered in early February, it was Couillard, and not Trudeau, who took the most flak – for having failed to exact guarantees from the company that Ottawa had secured.

As of now, both governments can only hope that Bombardier will make good on its promise to turn the corner on its financial difficulties – and that it will not ask for more money.

The company may have managed to make corporate bailouts of any kind a lose-lose proposition for politicians.

Bombardier executives believe Quebecers will get over their anger and let bygones be bygones sooner rather than later. But then, they also believed they deserved big bonuses for milking billions of public dollars out of two governments.

They might keep in mind that Quebec's licence plates read: Je me souviens.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

Brands you can trust when the world starts to burn

Vicky Mochama
Metro

When the revolution starts, which brand will be there for me?

I wondered this as I watched the caffeinated cola ad starring Kendall Jenner as a model-turned-protest leader. In it, she solves police brutality by handing a police officer a non-Coke soda. When she does it, a cheer goes up in the crowd as if to say, "We realize the police were hypoglycemic. Thanks, Kendall!"

After much backlash, the company has pulled the ad. They're not the only ones to pull ads this week.

The New York Times reported that Fox News blowhard Bill O'Reilly has had to pay out $13 million in sexual harassment lawsuits over the last few years. Forty advertisers (and counting) have responded by pulling their ads from O'Reilly's show, including major ones like Mercedes Benz, BMW, AllState Insurance and GlaxoSmithKline.

None of these companies pulled their ads from the network last July when allegations surfaced about Fox News CEO Roger Ailes sexually harassing employees. (He left the company soon after.) Maybe all those brands were just monitoring the situation.

Nine months after Ailes' departure, women must be overjoyed that dental company Invisalign is standing up for women.

There's really no reason for brands to be left out of dismantling capitalism.

In fact, between caffeinated beverages and luxury cars, it is invigorating to find brands that will be there to support the dismantling of systems of oppression.

For example, right-wing media has been assuring us that a race war is forthcoming. Done properly, it's a marketer's dream.

With their long-standing work on buying cool via basketball stars and rap music, Sprite will surely offer to be the drink of black people. Nothing says cool and refreshing like a battle for racial superiority.

I have been planning my outfit for the race war for some time, but what I am really hoping is that Beyoncé's athleisure line, Ivy Park, will supply our uniforms. Canadians who decline to take part can pick up their non-combatant grey sweats from Race War Amnesty title sponsor Roots.

But it's not just during the upcoming race war (sponsored by Halliburton?) when brands can find a lucrative market.

There are unique opportunities right now. As the resistance to Donald Trump coalesces in the United States, there is a profitable opportunity for Staples to provide branded poster board to marchers. In addition to their Easy button, they could issue a "RESIST" button.

There is a product for every consumer. It's just a matter of finding the company that fulfills your desire for de-funding private prisons but also serves the best latte.

Gil Scott Heron was right. The revolution will not be televised.

It will be streamed live on YouTube and hosted by BuzzFeed.

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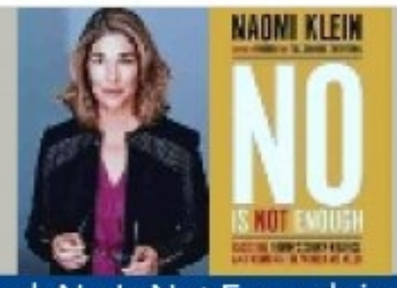


Naomi Klein to publish Trump book No Is Not Enough in June

Remembering Mom through her pearls

MEMOIR

Local style guru switches gears in emotional new book

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

During her last days in the hospital intensive-care unit, Karen von Hahn's mother Susan could no longer speak, but she could communicate by spelling out letters on a white card.

Susan's last word tapped out to her daughter was "pearls," which von Hahn instinctively knew meant that she was to inherit her mother's prized jewellery.

Von Hahn describes the art deco–fashioned strand of precious jewels as "fat and creamy, but elegantly flapper," in the opening of her new book, What Remains: Object Lessons in Love and Loss, a tribute to her mother, who died in 2012, and their complicated relationship.

Von Hahn, one of Toronto's most well-known and enduring style journalists, has spent most of the last three decades talking about the meaning of objects we surround ourselves with. It's a subject she knows intimately from birth.

Her mother Susan was a glamorous, witty, fun-loving, and perfectly tanned woman with a penchant for designer clothes and a driving need to be immersed in beauty, whether it be a Yves Saint Laurent peasant blouse or the satin silver couches where she would entertain over many vodka cocktails.

Von Hahn catalogues these items with sharp detail, in part to better understand her mother's life and, at times, the pain Susan's seeming narcissism would cause those around her.

"In the end we're left with nothing but a person's things. The reminders and the touchstones and the artefacts of a person's life," observes von Hahn, who started writing What Remains a year after her mother's death.

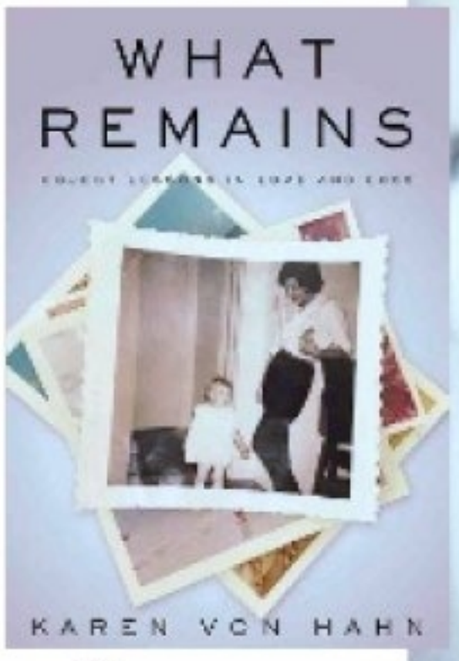
"What did they collect? What did they aspire to? What did they hope for or want to be? All these things are really expressed in the things that surround a person's life. It's like every person is curating their own museum. I thought that was a way in — to circle around the idea of my mother and my memories of her through the lens of objects and what they mean."

Growing up with a fabulously turned-out mom — and one who demands constant attention, often at the expense of others — can be tough on kids, especially as they test out their own emerging identities, only to discover there's little room left to share in the spotlight.

Von Hahn and her siblings were often left to their own devices, even when a little parental nurturing was called for. "In our house it was clear that the story was about my parents," says von Hahn. "It was their love affair and we children were just ancillary to that."

In the book, she recalls her mother's obsession with glamour as both a point of pride and embarrassment.

"She would appear at school and wouldn't look like any of the other mothers at all. She didn't care about the rules or whether other people thought she was appropriate. She was a bohemian at heart," says von Hahn. "But sometimes as a kid you think, 'Oh my God, can't they just be normal, like everyone else's parents for just one second?'"



It's been roughly four years since von Hahn starting writing What Remains, still in the thick emotional pool of both sorrow and relief.

And while the memoir may have been therapeutic in some ways, she continues to deeply miss her mother's physical presence and sharp insight.

"She refused to be forgotten. She was one of a kind. I felt she deserved the effort to be remembered because she was just amazing," says von Hahn. "I hope that the portrait of her I paint, which is warts and all, is true. I was mad for her."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

"In our house it was clear that the story was about my parents. It was their love affair and we children were just ancillary to that.
Karen von Hahn

In her memoir, journalist Karen von Hahn pays homage to her glamorous late mother, who she says was a bohemian at heart — something she didn't always appreciate as a kid. CONTRIBUTED

Rupert Grint as Charlie Cavendish-Scott in Snatch. CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Criminally inept, in more ways than one

THE SHOW: Snatch, Season 1, Episode 2 (Crave)
THE MOMENT: The rapping Hasidim

Londoners Albert (Luke Pasqualino) and Charlie (Rupert Grint) are in debt to gangsters. They've agreed to ferry three Brooklyn diamond merchants named Heimel, and their stash of stones, from Gatwick airport to a powerful fence.

Charlie's eyes widen in glee when he spies the Hasidim in their long coats, hats and shades, striding in slow motion like Reservoir Dogs. The three settle in the back seat of a minivan. "Where can we have a little fun around here?" Heimel #1 asks.

"What kind of fun are you referring to?" Charlie asks.

"Mad fun, da," replies Heimel #2.

"All work and no play makes Abel a dull boy," #1 says. #2 passes out tabs of MDMA. The Hasidim swallow.

"Turn up the music," #1 orders, and all three begin furiously rapping to Run DMC's It's Tricky to Rock a Rhyme. With hand gestures.

This 10-hour series, based on a real gold heist, borrows the choppy, stop-start style from Guy Ritchie's 2000 film of the same name. Unfortunately, it borrows everything that's frantic, florid and faux-gangsta about it, too.

Alongside the rapping Hasidim, there are dirty boxers, mob-connected Cuban club-owners and not one but two self-serving, hard-boiled dames. There's also a father/son arc, as Albert tries to escape the shadow of his crooked dad Vic (Dougray Scott), who's still running heists from prison.

Under all the noise, though, the plot keeps taking the same wrong turn: the lads repeatedly trip on their ineptitude. Criminality can be fun. But too much criminal stupidity will make Snatch a dull show.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

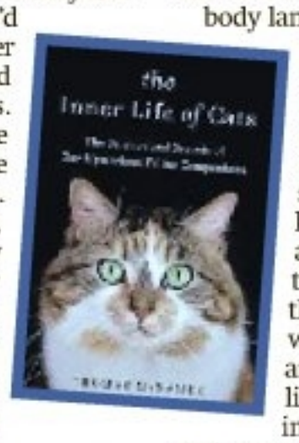
More than a feline: why cats are so *weird*

INTERVIEW

The whiskers and all story of what kitty is really thinking

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Cats are weird. They growl when they're happy, hiss when they're mad, and do that weird kneading thing on the couch for no apparent reason. There's some debate about whether they love us back, or if they'd be plotting to murder us if they only had opposable thumbs. They are some of the wildest animals we let into our homes. Thomas McNamee, author of the new book The Inner Life of Cats, says our cats love us, and they can communicate with us — we just have to learn how to listen.



What made you decide to write a book about cats' minds?
I guess it came down to guilt. A little black cat walked into our lives when we lived in a ranch in Montana. We found her in the barn, and she proceeded to live with us for the next 15 years. We didn't know much about how to bring up and treat a cat, and she turned out to be sort of a fraidy cat. I later learned a lot more about cats. We made so many mistakes. And I realized people everywhere were likely making some of the same mistakes that we made.

There's ongoing debate over whether cats are really domesticated — whether feral cats and house pets behave all that differently. Do you come down on a side?
I come down on both sides of it. Our cats are directly descended from the North African wildcat, and they're not very far from them. A lot of their habits and their psychology are directly related to that wildcat. On the other hand, there are aspects of their being that have evolved to be extremely domestic. You have to pay attention to how cats relate to humans. Dogs are easy to read. Cats are not so easy. But a cat really will love you.

So how do I know if my cat loves me?
The first step is to learn their body language. The most important expression of affection is the long, slow blink, looking right at you. And the straight tail with a little hook on top is a very friendly gesture. They will do things to you that wildcats do to one another to say, "I like you": bumping into your leg with their head, or rubbing their face against you.

What surprised you the most, out of all you learned?
The thing that struck me most is the depth and complexity of their emotions. I really had no idea how much was going on. There's been a tremendous amount of scientific research done in the last 20 years, and the results have not made it into the cat books that you can buy by the dozens.

What should be in those books?
People need to know that cats have deep emotional needs. Some people feed them, let them out, that's it. And the cat becomes a living, breathing sofa cushion. And here's another thing: The most important thing in most cat's lives is their litter box. It's true. It's like "This is where I leave the most olfactory information, these is my territory, my headquarters." And if your litter box situation is not right, your cat is going to be out of sorts all the time.

How do you know if you're doing the litter box right?
Well, the cat will eventually tell you. It needs to be sheltered, out of traffic, but it's got to have an escape route. Other cats need to respect it. It needs to be clean, but not too clean. Bleach is no good either. Respect is very much tied to it. It sounds silly, but if you look at the cat when it's doing its business in the box, they have this kind of sort of dreamy look on their face. They're in this kind of trance. They're completely absorbed in the experience.

Cats are so weird...
Yes they are!

Learning cats' body language is key to bonding. ISTOCK

MUSIC BRIEFS

Junos sales boost for stars
Call it the Juno effect. Data released by Nielsen Wednesday showed how featuring on Canadian music's biggest night paid off for some of the country' biggest artists.

Performers and winners saw huge spikes in fans streaming and buying their music after Sunday's ceremony. The Strumbellas, who won single of the year for Spirits, saw sales of that song increase nearly 200% while Alessia Cara, winner of pop album of the year for Know It All saw her album increase 140% overnight. METRO

Manilow comes out at 73
Barry Manilow has come out as gay, telling People magazine that he hid his sexuality for decades because he thought he would be "disappointing fans if they knew." The 73-year-old music legend married his longtime manager, Gary Kief, in a 2014 ceremony in California.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Molly Lodge, the smallest castle in the U.K., is on the market for £550,000

MEET THE CONDO

Barrhaven-area community almost sold out

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

West Pointe has only a few available homes remaining. Some models can be move-in ready as soon as four weeks from signing. The area includes a variety of single detached homes, townhomes and bungalows. Meanwhile, Claridge is planning another Barrhaven site.

Housing amenities

Homes include finished rec rooms in the basement, ceramic and hardwood flooring and granite counter tops. Claridge Homes can accommodate changes or customization to the layout, floor plan and finishes. All lots come with backyard spaces, garages and paved driveways.

Location and transit

Located in a suburban neighbourhood near Barrhaven with numerous transit routes that connect the community to downtown Ottawa, while Fallowfield railway station is also close by. Barrhaven's many shops, grocery stores, box stores and health services are all conveniently close.

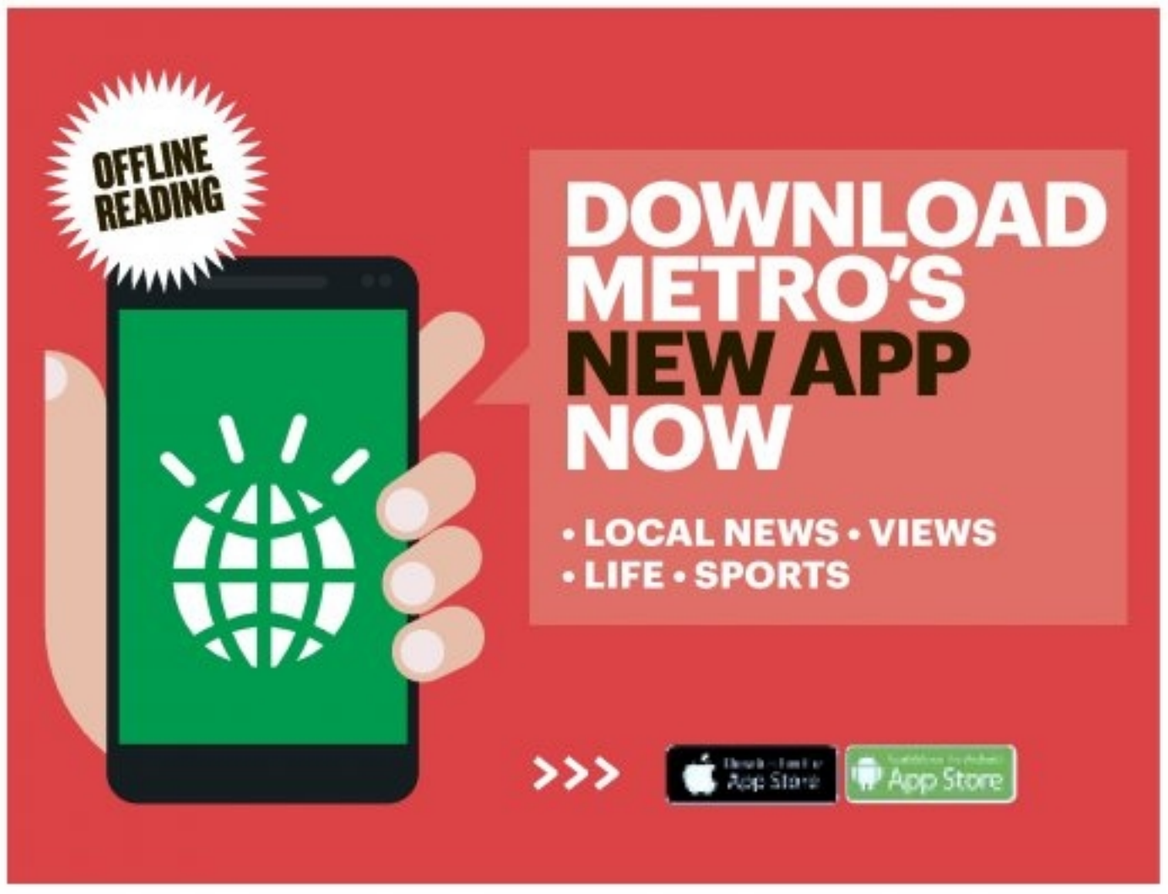
In the neighbourhood

A pleasant community just minutes from Barrhaven's entertainment, restaurant and recreation amenities, it's a great place for commuters and a safe community to raise a family. Highway 416 is easily accessible, making it easy to get around.

ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: West Pointe Village
Builder/Designer: Claridge Homes
Location: Off of Strandherd Drive
Building: Bungalows, townhomes and singles
Models: Two to three bedrooms, 2.5 to 3.5 bathrooms
Sizes: From 2,130 to 3,400 square feet
Pricing: Starting at $300,900
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: As soon as four weeks
Sales centre: 500 Peerless St.
Phone: (613) 823-6767
Website: claridgehomes.com



— ADVERTISING FEATURE —

ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE | *Try condo living*

Do you dream of owning a home in a respectable upscale neighbourhood, but you don't have the means to afford one? Or are you an otherwise happy homeowner who is ready to retire from gardening and lawn maintenance? A solution to try on for either case: a condominium!

If you're wondering if condo living is a fit for you, be prepared to consider a few things. Every condo owner is the proprietor of his or her own unit and owns a share of the common areas, such as stairs, halls, patios, and laundry rooms. All the building's co-owners must sign a condominium declaration, a legal document which includes a description of the building, its purpose, condominium fees (for snow clearing, maintenance, and insurance for the common areas), regulations concerning co-owners' meetings, as well as the powers and duties of the condominium's board of directors.

There are several advantages to condo ownership: daily upkeep of the condominium property is not the responsibility of individual owners, and together, condo owners can decide to install a swimming pool or other communal equipment that might be cost-prohibitive for any one individual. Note that condominium fees generally increase when new equipment and amenities are made available. Moreover, owners must be ready to make compromises and be prepared to accept the presence of other owners in common areas.

Before signing a condominium purchase agreement, ensure that you are aware of all the monthly fees you'll have to pay. Ask yourself if you will really use the services and amenities enough to justify the costs involved in being a condo owner. If yes, enjoy your new lifestyle!

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mintobeechwood.com

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- Only 1 Suite Remaining!
- From $293,900
- 1 bedroom - South Exposure
- Move in Now!
- Live in Westboro
- 485 Richmond Road

UPPERWEST westboro

liveupperwest.com

- Broadview Suite - 661 sq.ft.
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Staging your home so it sticks

EXPERT HELP

Play up the selling points and downplay the chore list

Vicky Sanderson

A booming real estate market doesn't reduce the benefits of hiring a stager. In fact, working with a professional can only add more value, says designer and stager Becky Freeman, because it results in even higher offers.

"As well, in a seller's market, you have to give buyers a reason for the high price," says Freeman, adding that her clients can typically expect a return on the cost of staging equal to between one and three per cent of the asking price.

DIY expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perrault, who wrote a staging course curriculum for Sheridan College, says the process should be seen as an investment rather than a cost. "If you give me $5,000 and I give you $20,000, where's the question?" she asks.

An effective stager brings fresh eyes to a property, adds Freeman. "People think their home is decorated perfectly, but often it has to be refined and decluttered — the analogy would be to a boutique hotel suite."

Both professionals say preshowing organization is key. After visiting a site, Freeman creates a report for clients that details jobs to be done, with a clickable shopping list. She can also connect homeowners with third-party experts, such as organizers and tradespeople.

Near the top of her to-do list is ensuring that there's a "purpose" for every room. "The buyer is looking and thinking, what can I use this room for? So every room must have a specific reason. You don't want two things going on in the same room, or to have undefined spaces."

Sellers often make the mistake of underestimating just how stressful the process will be, or how much work will need to be done. "One of my strengths is as an empathy coach, who understands it's not going to be easy. But I can explain the need to get rid of stuff, or store items, or do this or that in terms of how they will work as marketing tactics." To "sweeten" the news, Freeman always arrives at the first meeting with chocolate in hand.

To reduce stress, stager Nella Deluca often suggests people go on vacation while she addresses the staging details, including one of her pet peeves — poorly scaled rugs. ("They should anchor the furniture, and not float!" she says firmly.)

Social media may play an increasingly important role in real estate marketing, but Allaire Perrault has a caveat. "It's easy to fake reality by adding filters or shoot with an extra-wide lens to make something look bigger. But don't set people up to be disappointed! As with everything, under-promise and over deliver."

Deluca is all for homeowners doing renovations prior to listing, but reminds them it's not their chance to do a dream makeover. "They will want to do things they love that make the space very self-specific. That can make it challenging to sell. Anything that's fixed should be neutral, not too ornate, and universally appealing."

Allaire Perrault agrees that decor matters when selling a home. "But you have to stage for all the senses," she adds. "If the floor squeaks and the stair rails wobble and the door handles are loose or sticky, each of those things goes on a buyer's subconscious chore list, and one that has costs attached to it."

Designer and stager Becky Freeman likens staging vacant homes and condos to "filling a blank space in a day or two." IRVIN SIDHU

EXTERIOR

Staging often focuses on the interior of a home, but DIY expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perrault reminds sellers that prospective buyers will often drive by a house before touring it. "If the exterior doesn't capture them, they'll just keep going," she says.

Homeowner's hindsight

Shoulda, woulda, coulda. If you've managed to make it through life with no regrets, you're definitely in the minority.

Even Frank Sinatra, who famously crooned I Did It My Way, had a few. But since buying a home is probably one of the biggest-ticket purchases you will ever make in your life, we asked recent homebuyers to share with us some of the things they wish they'd known about the process.

1. Get your ducks in a row well in advance when it comes to financing. Chris Ryall lost the house of his dreams because "the bank wasn't able to get their act together in time." Ryall had already owned and paid off two houses, but after his divorce, he and his girlfriend wanted to buy a house together.

"I figured getting financing would just be a formality," he says. Ryall reasoned that he owns a business, has a credit score in the top five per cent, and has been with the same bank for many years. But he couldn't have been more wrong. "None of that meant diddly-squat," he says.

2. Do a credit check in advance. "Credit scoring agencies like Equifax and TransUnion can make mistakes," says Ryall. His girlfriend's credit score still reflected an old loan she had repaid long ago. And, as Ryall points out, every time some company does a credit check on you — for instance, when you're changing cell phone plans or if you move and have to set up services in the new location — it can negatively impact your credit score.

3. Opting for a condo? Read the rules and regs thoroughly. "I was surprised at some of the fees implemented by my condo board," says personal finance blogger Barry Choi (moneywehave.com), who bought a condo last year with his wife Carla Salvosa.

"If we ever get locked out of our unit, we'll be charged to have the concierge let us back in," he says. "We'll also be charged if we leave our car in its parking spot when they're power washing the garages." Although Choi and his wife haven't yet been dinged for anything, he says, "some of the fees listed still seem insane to me."

4. Buying a new home? Think long term and upgrade the materials. "We bought our house brand new from a builder," says Nancy Truman of Markham, Ont. I wish we had known to upgrade the materials used at the time."

Just 12 years on, Truman has already replaced the roof and the attic insulation. In addition, she says "the windows ice up and the garage door keeps falling apart."

5. Give yourself time to get out of one home and into another. Dan and Jasmine Young moved into their home in Toronto's east end in December. "We closed on our new house and old house on the same day," he says. "That meant we had to be out of one house and coordinate getting into the other all on the same day. It added a ton of stress on top of having a pregnant wife in her third trimester!"

CAMILLA CORNELL

After having to withdraw a bid he put on a 'dream' home due to an abundance of paperwork, Chris Ryall purchased a townhome with his girlfriend in Burlington, Ont. last July. TIM FRASER

THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.

Buying your first home? Here's how to get the best mortgage

Every mortgage shopper wants the lowest mortgage rate possible, but be careful; sometimes the lowest rate may not get you the best mortgage.

For example, many first-time homebuyers automatically look to their banks to get a low mortgage rate. While your bank may give you rates they say are low, they often aren't the lowest rates in the market. Unless you work with a mortgage broker, you probably wouldn't know that.

My job as a mortgage broker is to hunt down the best rates and terms for my clients. In almost all cases, you pay nothing for my services. My team and I have many lenders we negotiate with on your behalf. At the very least, working with us will get competing lenders to provide you with their best mortgage deals. That's why simply approaching your bank can't compare with us when it comes to saving you money.

The better your credit score, the more leverage you have when it comes to securing the best rates and terms out there. Plus, the larger the down

payment you can afford — even more leverage. But remember, it's not just about rate: terms matter. It may not benefit you to accept a lower rate for a shorter term if potential future penalties and fees for breaking your contract will nullify those initial savings. A good mortgage broker will help you avoid those costly mistakes.

Mortgages are a great opportunity, but only if you do your homework and really understand all aspects of what makes a mortgage right for you. At MortgagesMadeEasy.com, we breathe this stuff daily and we can't wait to share what we know with you.

And when we promise you "mortgages made easy", we mean it. We're here to answer your questions, and explain the fine print, so the process of buying your first home is as hassle-free as possible.

Give us a call and let us help you get the home you deserve!

Written by Grant King,
President of MortgagesMadeEasy.com

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metro SPORTS

Augusta National was shut down for the second time this week Wednesday due to severe weather with the Masters set to Open Thursday

Yuuuge on the links

GOLF

Trump extends his polarizing persona to the greens

Leave your ego in the clubhouse if you ever get the chance to golf with U.S. President Donald Trump. He may well throw shade on your game. And puff up his own.

Trump suggested to his good friend Phil Ruffin that maybe he should be hitting from the women's tees. Years ago, he repeatedly ribbed an AP golf writer after his drive didn't go as far as a female pro's. As president, he's even had the chutzpah to give grief to Ernie Els, who's playing in the Masters this week.

"He's very good at the needle," says Jim Herman, who was an assistant club pro at one of Trump's courses before Trump spotted his talent and helped him join the PGA Tour.

Since taking office, Trump has made it clear he has no qualms about spending quality time on the golf course even though he criticized former president Barack Obama relentlessly for doing the same.

This is one area, however, where the president's boasts are borne out by performance.

At age 70, the president still is a very good golfer, with a strong drive, quirky but effective putts and multiple holes-in-one and 19 club championships to his credit.

While he hasn't recorded scores for a while, his handicap was 2.9 last fall, better than the 3.5 for 77-year-old Jack Nicklaus, the 18-time major champion.

In his 10 weeks as president, Trump has turned up at one or another of his 16 golf properties at least 17 times, spending more than 63 hours in all at different clubs.

Donald Trump says he is using golf to help lubricate business and political pursuits.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

But the White House, sensitive to accusations that it's hypocritical for Trump to golf a lot after criticizing Obama for doing just that, fuzzes up exactly what the president is doing during all those hours at his clubs.

> **He was giving me grief about my game.**
> Ernie Els, four-time major winner

Trump is proud to say he uses his golf game to lubricate business and political pursuits.

As he tries to revive the effort to repeal health care law, Trump on Sunday invited Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who had opposed the latest plan, for a round of golf at his course in northern Virginia.

Paul said Monday that Trump likes to talk about "how we come together to get everybody on the same page, and he likes to do it through golf."

Trump made a point of golfing with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in February, using the golden driver that Abe had given him just days after the election. The two used the Florida outing to foster deeper relationships in Asia, according to the White House.

Els, who was part of a foursome with Trump and Abe that weekend, says the talk wasn't all business.

"He was giving me grief about my game," Els said. "He's one of the boys. He didn't talk anything down on the ladies or anything like that, so that was nice."

As for making golf more accessible for people without deep pockets, Trump just doesn't want to go there.

He told the Golf Channel last year: "I'd like to see golf be an aspirational game, where you aspire to join a club someday. You want to play, you go out and you become successful."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MASTERS

Johnson ailing after tumble down stairs

Masters favourite Dustin Johnson took a serious fall on a staircase Wednesday and injured his lower back, and his manager said it was uncertain whether the world's No. 1 golfer would be able to play.

It was a stunning development on an otherwise quiet day at Augusta National, where the course was shut down at 1:30 p.m. because of storms.

> **I've got a lot of confidence in my game right now ... But, you know, anything can happen.**
> Dustin Johnson on Tuesday

The real calamity struck a few hours later.

David Winkle, his manager at Hambric Sports, said Johnson fell on the stairs at the home he is renting in Augusta.

"He landed very hard on his lower back and is now resting, although quite uncomfortably," Winkle said in an email. "He has been advised to remain immobile and begin a regiment of anti-inflammatory medication and icing, with the hope of being able to play tomorrow."

What might help Johnson is that he is in the last group for the opening round, scheduled to tee off at 2:03 p.m. with two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and PGA champion Jimmy Walker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Hazard's double spurs Chelsea win

The symbol of Chelsea's collapse last season, Eden Hazard has spearheaded the revival under Antonio Conte.

With another two goals on Wednesday sealing a 2-1 victory over Manchester City, Hazard set the runaway leaders back on the winning track after a shocking weekend setback.

Stamford Bridge now regularly rises to acclaim the winger who went missing in Chelsea's moments of despair last year and was branded a "rat" by fans who blamed him for Jose Mourinho's second reign ending in acrimony.

With each goal — 12 and counting after Wednesday — and every moment he's shimmering across the field, Hazard has rekindled the love affair with the Chelsea faithful.

Eden Hazard
GETTY IMAGES

"He's an important player and also he's growing in his mentality," Conte said. "I think he's playing a really good season."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reporter recounts Trump's mocking

I played golf with Donald Trump in November 2002 when he was just a billionaire developer who loved golf.

Rounding out our pro-am foursome at Trump International in West Palm Beach, Fla., were Annika Sorenstam and Jim Palmer, the former Baltimore Orioles pitcher. At the time, Sorenstam was the best in the world, and Trump had made sure she was in his group.

Me? I was just along for the ride.

On the last hole, Sorenstam hit her tee shot about 10 yards past mine, and that was all the future president, known for trash talk on the links, needed.

"Did you see how far she hit it past you? And you hit that one good!" he said mockingly.

"Yes, well, she is No. 1 in the world," I replied.

"Yeah, but you're a big, strong guy and she's 20 yards past you!"

The next day I was watching Sorenstam in the first round and when she missed a putt, I realized I was standing next to Trump.

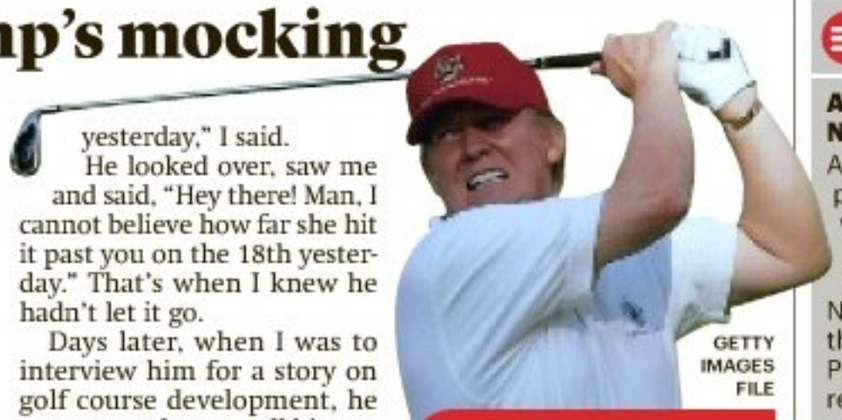
"I hope we didn't ruin her yesterday," I said.

He looked over, saw me and said, "Hey there! Man, I cannot believe how far she hit it past you on the 18th yesterday." That's when I knew he hadn't let it go.

Days later, when I was to interview him for a story on golf course development, he even wanted me to tell his employee who brought me to our meeting.

"Tell him how far Annika hit her drive past you," he said.

DOUG FERGUSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GETTY IMAGES FILE

2.9

Trumps' golf handicap.

IN BRIEF

Amazon Prime scores NFL Thursday Night games

Amazon's new deal gives prime-time football a whole new meaning.

The e-commerce powerhouse will stream NFL Thursday Night games this season via its Amazon Prime video service, replacing Twitter.

The live streams of the games will be available to the estimated 65 million members of Amazon Prime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian weightlifter closer to gold after drug retests

Canada could be adding a second gold medal to its tally from the 2012 Olympics.

Weightlifter Christine Girard could jump from third place to first after the International Olympic Committee stripped Russia's Svetlana Tzarukaeva of the silver medal after a positive substance test, the same fate of Maiya Maneza, who has already been stripped of her gold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Hearty Carrot & Chickpea Stew

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This fragrant, hearty stew makes more than enough for dinner, so you can pack leftovers for a tasty lunch tomorrow.

Ready in 1 hour 5 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp minced ginger
- Tbsp olive oil
- 3 cups carrots, chopped in 1/4 inch rounds
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 3/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 red pepper chopped
- 1/2 zucchini chopped
- 6 or 8 mushrooms chopped
- 2 cups of canned chickpeas, drained
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable stock

Directions

1. Sauté the onion, garlic and ginger in the olive oil until they're soft but not browned.

2. Add the carrots and the spices and a splash of stock to stop it from sticking.

3. Cook for 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

4. Add the other vegetables and sauté for a couple of minutes.

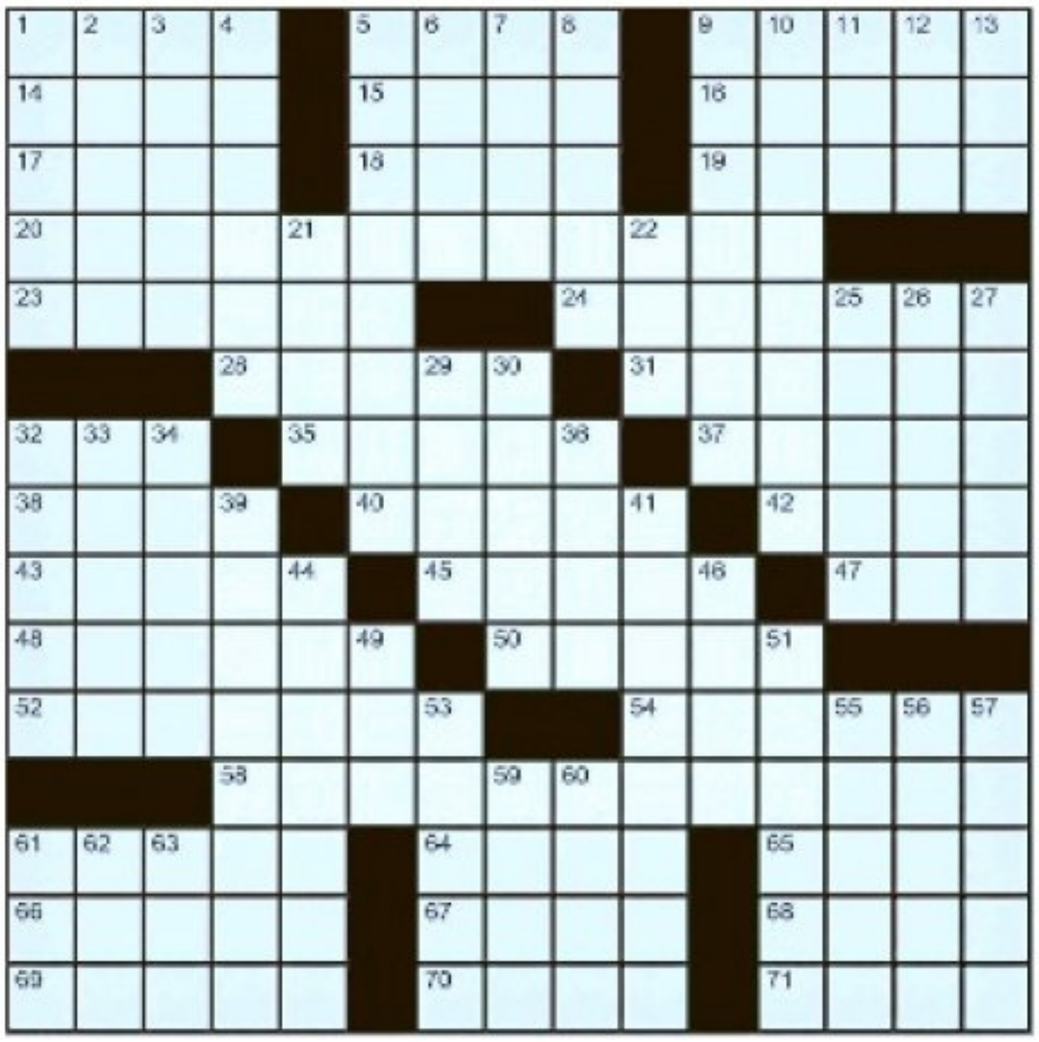
5. Add the drained chickpeas and stock and simmer for an hour, stirring regularly.

6. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with a dollop of plain yogurt and some fresh cilantro.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Begone!"
5. Cinch
9. Treat at afternoon tea
14. Family-themed song by Paul Anka
15. Outfit for Octavian
16. Up __ (Until this moment)
17. __ the Terrible
18. Division
19. Surplus
20. Bruno Gerussi's starring role on "The Beachcombers": 2 wds.
23. Row of cookies in a bag
24. First __ in Western Canada National Historic Site of Canada, it's something to 'gush' about in Alberta
28. Parts of doorbell-sounding duos
31. Particularly-pitiless person
32. Diamond official, for short
35. Look after the fire's logs
37. Work like Rosie did in World War II
38. Heathcliff's heathered haunt
40. Drink the water, as a puppy
42. Cancelled
43. Tim Hortons __ (Curling championship)
45. Carnivals
47. Hankering
48. Rotten
50. News reporter's coup
52. Leeward Islands country, __ and Barbuda
54. Pieces in the Phantom of the Opera's wardrobe
58. American inventor (b.1847 - d.1931) whose father was Canadian: 2 wds.
61. Noise a tomato makes when falling onto the kitchen floor
64. 'Chew' suffix (Like a stick of gum)
65. "My king."
66. On __ (How some sandwiches are served)
67. Footnote abbr.
68. River on the Poland/Germany border
69. __-turvy
70. Meshworks
71. Organized

DOWN
1. Revolves
2. Quibble
3. Speedily
4. What the turned-out-to-not-be-a-blockbuster-movie did
5. University attendees
6. Reason for a "Tsk, tsk." utterance
7. Opposin'
8. Flagstones-created retreat
9. Thief
10. Rowing team
11. Windsor, __.
12. __'easter
13. Hawaii's __ Beach
21. Hertz competitor
22. Shadowy
25. Diplomatic representative
26. Vassal
27. Disclosed: 2 wds.
29. Fairway game
30. Arctic seabirds
32. Total eclipse phenomenon
33. "Joanie Loves Chachi" star Erin
34. Gist of a speech
36. Mr. Clapton
39. Piano performances
41. Takeaways from sales
44. Justifiedly
46. Hoped-for-word-in-bold on a real estate sign
49. Couplet
51. "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" band
53. At full force, poetically
55. "All kidding __..."
56. Seoul, South __
57. Viking dog in the funny pages
59. Superior at a French monastery
60. Skirt feature
61. Was in session
62. __ rata
63. Prune

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are pumped to explore social situations, playful times with children, the arts and sporting events today. You want to have fun, and you're ready for anything!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Family discussions will be lively, inventive and original today. Listen to what other people bring to the table. Surprise company might drop by — stock the fridge.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You're full of inventive, genius-like ideas today. This is why conversations with others will be lively and stimulating! Enjoy and learn whatever you can.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Trust your moneymaking ideas, because you are capable of seeing new ways of doing things simply because you can think outside the box. Sometimes, that's all it takes.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
For most of this day, the Moon is in your sign, dancing with wild and wacky Uranus. This helps you to be inventive and spontaneous. Just go with the flow!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might be privately excited about something today, because you see new ways of doing things. The trick is, will others agree with you? Why not find out?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might meet a real character today. This also is a good day to hang out with friends and explore fresh activities. Don't be afraid to take a chance on something new.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
People admire you today. They see you as someone who is a leader and who is full of innovative ideas. Likewise, your boss or parent also might have a new way of looking at things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Travel plans suddenly might fall in your lap today. Alternatively, scheduled travel might be canceled or delayed. Anything can happen.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Check your bank account and anything to do with shared property, because a few surprises await you today. Make sure you know what's going on.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A friend or partner might surprise you today by suggesting something out of the blue. Stay light on your feet so that you can play ball.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a good day to introduce reform and improvements to your job or possibly to your health. That's because you are full of original, inventive ideas. Trust your thinking process.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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8	1	5	4	7	9	3	6	2
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7	2	4	6	3	8	5	1	9
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9	6	1	7	5	4	2	8	3
1	8	7	9	4	2	6	3	5
5	3	9	1	6	7	8	2	4
2	4	6	5	8	3	1	9	7

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Townhome, **The Byward 'A', 1,839 Sq.Ft. $316,990**

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Townhome, **The Highgate Corner 'B', 2,217 Sq.Ft. $357,990**

Includes: 3 Stainless Steel Appliances, Hardwood On Main Floor, Granite Countertops In Kitchen, Main & Ensuite Bathroom, Designer Series Backsplash In Kitchen, Upgraded Tile Throughout, Over The Range Stainless Steel Microwave Hood Fan, A/C, Oak Staircase, 6 Pot Lights, Frameless Shower Door & Smooth Ceilings On Main Floor

Townhome, **The Riverdale Corner 'A', 2,429 Sq.Ft. $369,990**

Includes: 3 Stainless Steel Appliances, Hardwood On Main Floor, Granite Countertops In Kitchen, Main & Ensuite Bathroom, Designer Series Backsplash In Kitchen, Upgraded Tile Throughout, Over The Range Stainless Steel Microwave Hood Fan, A/C, Oak Staircase, 6 Pot Lights, Frameless Shower Door & Smooth Ceilings On Main Floor

SALES CENTRE HOURS Monday - Thursday 1pm-8pm; Friday 1pm-6pm; Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 11am-6pm

MATTAMYHOMES.COM

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TARION